(b) to (e) During 1991-98 period, rural literacy rate has increased by 12 per cent as against the urban literacy rate of 7 per cent.

Monthly Monitoring Meetings are held to critically review the progress of literacy campaigns in the States with special focus on illiteracy prone rural areas.

A new approach has been adopted since 1st April, 2000 with the following features to ensure effective implementation of literacy programmes particularly in rural areas:

(i) National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters have been revised and financial norms enhanced.

(ii) Decentralization and delegation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs).

(iii) The integrated Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and Post Literacy Programmes (PLP) approach to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence.

(iv) Under Continuing Education Programme neo literates are provided opportunities for skill development, income generating programmes and individual interest promotion programmes. Centres also work for removal of residual illiteracy.

(v) Jan Shikshan Sansthans to provide vocational and technical skills especially in rural areas.

Financial assistance to State run universities

4655. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what special financial assistance/measures are contemplated for State run universities;

(b) whether Government have no plan to take-over the State universities where there is no Central Universities run by Government of India; and

(c) the total amount of financial assistance granted by UGC to Manipur University during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the financial assistance expected to be made available during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to the eligible State Universities, as per the prescribed norms and pattern of assistance, for recruitment of teaching and technical staff; purchase of books, journals and equipment; construction of academic buildings, hostels, staff quarters; creation of students amenities, etc. The Commission also provides separate grants to the State Universities under specific schemes for implementation of various programmes.

(b) The Government has no such plan under consideration.

(c) The amount of financial assistance paid by UGC to Manipur University during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) is Rs. 366.31 lakhs and the financial assistance expected to be paid to the University during the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 54.60 lakhs, subject to receipt of Utilisation Certificate of grants paid earlier.

Diversion of ICSSR funds

4656. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are diverting funds meant for Indian Council of Social Sciences Research to other areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for such diversion; and

(c) the details of allocations made to ICSSR during the last five years on the Plan side and the expenditure on different social science programme during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No funds meant for ICSSR have been diverted to any other areas.

(b) Does not arise.